

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231
Fee Bearing Amendment

A Certificate of U.S. EXPRESS Mailing by article EK763984472US is on page 22 of this response.

Re: Patent Application of Brad A. Armstrong
Serial No.: 09/510,572 Filed: 02/22/00

Title: GAME CONTROL WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S)

Applicant's mailing address: Brad A. Armstrong
P.O. Box 1419
Paradise, CA 95967

Examiner: Mr. John Paradiso
Group Art Unit 3721

Dear Sir:
REMARKS

A petition for a 3 month extension of time and the associated \$445.00 small entity fee for responding after 05/13/01 is attached.

This is responsive to a telephone conversation, regarding Applicant's 05/16/01 response, between Applicant Brad Armstrong and Examiner J. Paradiso, and further responsive to the Office Action mailed 02/13/01, marked paper #2, which was the first Office Action on the merits of the above specified application.

As discussed in the telephone conversation the 05/16/01 response from Applicant was responsive to the Office Action date mailed 02/13/01, but which Applicant had put in the wrong set of claims. Upon realizing the wrong set of claims had been sent, Applicant called Examiner J. Paradiso to request that the amended claims sent 05/16/01 not be examined, and the Examiner agreed.

Regarding the 05/16/01 response: please enter and act on the prior art and Remarks pertaining to prior art, and two Terminal Disclaimers, but do not enter or act upon the claims that were sent on 05/16/01.

05/00/2001 H00LDER1 00000041 09510572

01 FC:202 40.00 OP
02 FC:203 198.00 OP

02/00/2001 H00LDER1 00000041 09510572
03 FC:126 180.00 OP - I DS
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Please apply both the First and Second Terminal Disclaimers (sent on 05/16/01 along with the fees) to the patent issuing from the instant application.

Please enter and act upon the claims (amended and new) in the "clean" version contained herein. A marked-up version is also provided.

In the 05/16/01 response, Applicant submitted an additional \$283.00 small entity fee for additional claims submitted, thus having paid for a total of 52 claims and 8 independent claims. The "additional" claims 26-52 were not entered as discussed above, and therefor the additional fee is available to be applied to the herewith submitted claims 26-52. Additionally submitted herewith is \$238.00 for claims 53-74 and including payment therein for 1 more independent claim. With the entering of the present amendment there will be a total of 74 claims, and 9 independent claims.

Please consider the Information Disclosure Statement sent on 05/16/01 (with the appropriate fee) while examining the claims of the instant invention sent with this current response.

Additionally, another or a "new" Information Disclosure Statement and \$180.00 small entity fee therefor is included herewith. Listed in the new Information Disclosure Statement are two Japanese documents. I have been given these Japanese documents by a third party, and I cannot attest to the validity of these documents, their dates, or the English translations which I have included for Patent Office consideration. Even though I cannot attest to the validity of these documents, I believe the present invention as claimed is clearly patentable over these documents if they are "in fact" as presented to me. Please examine the herein claims as if these two Japanese documents are valid disclosures.

The first of the two is titled SWITCH DEVICE, having a

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publication date of 1995-11-14, Assigned to Sega Enterprise LTD and listing Terajima Junich and others as Inventor. This disclosure JP7302159 while available in Japanese on the Internet, was provided by a third party translated into English. I cannot attest to the accuracy of the English translation. I have provided a copy which is 55 pages in English with an additional 4 sheets of drawings and then 1 (one) more sheet in Japanese. I have also provided an English "Abstract" printed from the EPO database which I do believe is reliable. The document JP7302159 should however be considered during examination of the claims of the instant application. The present invention is patentable over the document JP7302159 alone, and the present invention is patentable over document JP7302159 in any proper combination with other prior art. The document JP7302159 does not teach or suggest the present claimed inventive combination particularly in regards to "pressure-sensitive single depressible individual analog button(s) positioned in the right-hand area of a two hand held controller" of the instant invention. Further, the many additional methods and apparatuses cited in the claims of the instant invention teach additional inventive features in combination, thus further defining the present invention over the prior art. The inventive combinations of the present invention are a major advancement in the field.

The second Japanese document, Publication No. 5-87760, was allegedly published on November 26, 1993. I say allegedly because I could not find the disclosure on the EPO patent database, nor on the Japanese patent database. Since it is a "Japanese Unexamined Utility Model Application", it may just be difficult or impossible to call up on an Internet database, possibly only being discoverable by a hand search. I cannot attest to the authenticity of Publication No. 5-87760. Nor, can I attest to the accuracy of the English translation. I have however provided a copy of the 8 pages of English translation, a copy of the 6 pages of the Japanese language document which includes a page having 3 drawing figures. While I cannot attest

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to the authenticity of Publication No. 5-87760, i.e. whether it is actually prior art, I nevertheless submit the information for consideration during examination of the claims of the instant application.

Publication No. 5-87760 is directed toward describing an analog cross key 12, a four way analog rocker much the same as in the U.S. Patent 5,510,812 O'Mara et al of record in the instant application file. Note, all claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,802 (from which the instant application is continued) were rightfully issued over the cited O'Mara. As requested by the Examiner, a Terminal Disclaimer has been provided for the instant application due to the similarities between the instant claims and the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,802.

The present invention is patentable over Publication No. 5-87760 alone, and the present invention is patentable over Publication No. 5-87760 in any proper combination with prior art.

Publication No. 5-87760 does not suggest and in fact teaches away from the present claimed inventive combination particularly in regards to "pressure-sensitive single depressible independent analog button(s) positioned in the right hand area of a two hand held controller" of the instant invention. Further, the many additional methods and apparatuses cited in the claims of the instant invention teach additional inventive features in combination, thus further defining the present invention over the prior art. The inventive combinations of the present invention are a major advancement in the field.

Applicant has carefully read and studied the 02/13/01 Office Action and all of the prior art. The Office Action lists claims 1-25 as pending and rejected, claims 1-14 and 20-25 rejected under 35 USC 103, and claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 include words such as "slowly" and "low" resulting in a 35 USC 112 rejection thereof. Correction to such language has been made below under Amendments. Claim 15-19 are stated as allowable with the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer and fee.

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The claims will be herein amended and new claims submitted according to the Examiner's Office Action.

Attached hereto is a clean version of the claims as amended and also including new claims. Please enter and act upon the "clean" version of the claims submitted for examination and allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the claims as being amended. The newly added claims are not shown in the marked-up version but are shown in the clean version.

SPECIFIC REMARKS AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE OF THE CLAIMS

In this section, addressing reasons for allowance of individual claims, the claims will be addressed simply by the claim number without using the term "as amended".

Specifically, the following claims are allowable over all known prior art, singularly or in proper combination, for at least the following reasons:

Claim 1 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: depressing two individual buttons with varying pressure for variably controlling action intensity of a simulated game character, the two buttons located in the right-hand area of a two hand held housing.

Claim 2 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 1 and further defining the inventive combination in terms of variable degrees of pressure relating to variable speed of the simulated game character.

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Claim 3 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 1 and further defining the inventive combination in terms of variable degrees of pressure relating to variable jumping height of the game character.

Claim 4 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 1 and further defining the inventive combination in terms of variable degrees of pressure relating to variable slowing of a simulated car.

Claim 5 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 1 and further defining the inventive combination in terms of variable degrees of pressure relating to variable firing rate of a simulated gun.

Claim 6 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: depressing two individual buttons with varying pressure for variably controlling action intensity of a simulated game character, the two buttons located in the right-hand area of a two hand held housing.

Claim 7 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 6 and further defining the inventive combination in terms of variable degrees of pressure relating to variable jumping height of the game character.

Claim 8 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 7 and further defining the inventive combination as including the housing supporting in the left-hand area a depressible pad having four codependant areas enabling the step of depressing the pad for at least in part controlling the game character.

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Claim 9 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 6 and further defining the inventive combination in terms of variable degrees of pressure relating to variable slowing of a simulated car.

Claim 10 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 9 and further defining the inventive combination as including the housing supporting in said left-hand area a depressible pad having four codependant areas enabling the step of depressing the pad for steering the car.

Claim 11 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: at least one individual button for activating a pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor in the right-hand area reachable by a user's right hand thumb; said sensor including means for creating an analog signal; said sensor being one of a plurality of electricity manipulating devices, at least one of said electricity manipulating devices including means for creating an On/Off signal.

Claim 12 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 11 and further defining the inventive combination as including said electronics means further for reading said at least one of said electricity manipulating devices including means for creating an On/Off signal, exclusively as an On/Off switch.

Claim 13 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 11 and further defining the inventive combination as including the signals represent operation of said variable-conductance sensor.

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Claim 14 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 11 and further defining the inventive combination as including said electronics means includes an ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit), and said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor further includes a resilient dome cap carrying a conductive material on an underside of said dome-cap, said conductive material having a deformable shaped surface, wherein with a first level of applied pressure to said button the deformable shaped surface establishes a first electrical contact area, with a second level of applied pressure to said button the deformable shaped surface establishes a second electrical contact area, said second electrical contact area is larger than said first electrical contact area and electrical resistance of said sensor is larger with said first level of applied pressure than the electrical resistance of said sensor with said second level of applied pressure.

Claim 15 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: at least one pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor in the right-hand area of a two hand held housing; said sensor including a depressible resilient dome positioned over conductive material positioned in proximity to circuit trace material.

Claim 16 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: a pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor comprising a dome cap having a surface with an apex positioned above circuit trace material for causing varying surface area contact providing varying change in electrical conductivity in said sensor.

Claim 17 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 16 and further defining the inventive combination as including said sensor is depressible by a single digit of a user's hand.

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Claim 18 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 17 and further defining the inventive combination as including said active electronics means include an ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit).

Claim 19 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 17 and further defining the inventive combination as including said control device is a game control device including a housing to be grasped and held simultaneously by two hands of the human user during use, said housing including a right-hand area and a left-hand area, said right-hand area being an area for at least grasping by the user's right hand, said left-hand area being an area for at least grasping by the user's left hand, said sensor located in said right-hand area to be depressed by the human user's right-hand thumb.

Claim 20 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: a housing to be grasped and held simultaneously by two hands of a human user, said housing including a right-hand area and a left-hand area, a plurality of depressible electricity manipulating devices, at least one of said electricity manipulating devices is a pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor located in said right-hand area for being depressed by the user's right-hand digit, said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor including means for creating an On/Off output, and with varied pressure creating an analog output; active electronics means for at least interpreting the outputs of said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor.

Claim 21 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 20 and further defining the inventive combination as including an ASIC,

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and said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor includes flexible material having a substantially convex surface, said material deforming with additional pressure to flatten causing contact of additional surface area to provide conductivity changes of said sensor.

Claim 22 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: A method of manufacturing a game control, including the steps: a) providing a housing shaped to be held simultaneously by two hands of a human user, said housing formed with a right-hand area and a left-hand area; b) assembling electronics into said housing; c) installing electricity manipulating devices connected to said electronics; d) positioning said electricity manipulating devices in-part exposed on said housing to be depressed by digits of the human user's hand; e) installing into said right-hand area of said housing at least two single individual button depressible pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors, said sensors connected to said electronics, said sensors independently depressible by a single digit of a human user's right hand.

Claim 23 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 22 and further defining the inventive combination as including the step of installing resilient dome caps located to be operational with pressure-sensitive material of said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors.

Claim 24 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 22 and further defining the inventive combination as including the step of installing injection molded rubber dome caps located to be operational with said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors.

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Claim 25 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 24 and further defining the inventive combination as including the step of installing in said left-hand area of said housing a depressible pad associated with four of said electricity manipulating devices.

Claim 26 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 15 and further defining the inventive combination as including an inner surface of said dome-cap has an apex.

Claim 27 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 26 and further defining the inventive combination as including the dome-cap is flexible and under increasing pressure the apex flattens to contact additional surface area of the conductive material with the circuit trace means to provide conductivity changes of said sensor.

Claim 28 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 15 and further defining the inventive combination as including the conductive material is carried within said dome cap and said conductive material is shaped to include an apex.

Claim 29 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 28 and further defining the inventive combination as including said conductive material is flexible and said apex flattens with additional physical pressure causing additional contact area for providing resistance changes of said sensor.

Claim 30 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 25 and

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further defining the inventive combination as including the step providing said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance analog sensors with conductive material having a convexed surface, and further, providing said conductive material as flexible material deformable with physical pressure to increase contact area resulting in lowering electrical resistance.

Claim 31 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 11 and further defining the inventive combination as including said electronics means is further for reading at least one of said electricity manipulating devices exclusively as an On/Off switch.

Claim 32 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 31 and further defining the inventive combination as including said electronic means is outputting to a game console information representing the signals, and the signals represent operation of said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor.

Claim 33 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 32 and further defining the inventive combination as including the electronic means includes an ASIC and the sensor having pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material.

Claim 34 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 32 and further defining the inventive combination as including said pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor includes conductive trace means for conducting electricity.

Claim 35 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 34 and further defining the inventive combination as including said

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conductive trace means includes a first circuit trace and a second circuit trace, the traces connected by a conductive material.

Claim 36 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 11 and further defining the inventive combination as including at least two of said electricity manipulating devices are pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensors operable by two depressible individual buttons located within said right-hand area and reachable by the user's right-hand thumb, and the sensor include pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material.

Claim 37 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 14 and further defining the inventive combination as including at least four of said electricity manipulating devices are pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensors operable by four depressible individual buttons located within said right-hand area and reachable by the user's right-hand thumb.

Claim 38 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 20 and further defining the inventive combination as including at least two of said electricity manipulating devices are pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensors operable by two depressible individual buttons located within said right-hand area and reachable by the user's right-hand thumb.

Claim 39 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 21 and further defining the inventive combination as including at least two of said electricity manipulating devices are pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensors operable by two depressible individual buttons located within said right-hand

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area and reachable by the user's right-hand thumb.

Claim 40 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 33 and further defining the inventive combination as including at least four of said electricity manipulating devices are pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensors operable by four depressible individual buttons located within said right-hand area and reachable by the user's right-hand thumb.

Claim 41 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: An improved method for controlling game imagery with a game control, said game control at least in part controlling imagery created by an image generation machine, said game control of the type having a housing designed to be held in two hands simultaneously, said housing having a right-hand area and a left-hand area, located in said right-hand area are depressible single individual buttons, said buttons positioned to be depressed by a user's right hand thumb, depression of said buttons is for controlling said imagery; said improvement comprises the step of:

providing variable action intensity of said game imagery at least in part controlled by pressure-sensitive variable depression of one of said buttons.

Claim 42 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 41 and further defining the inventive combination as including the improvement further comprising the step of: providing variable action intensity of said game imagery at least in part controlled by pressure-sensitive variable depression of a second one of said buttons, and further providing for said buttons to depress pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material.

Claim 43 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 42 and

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further defining the inventive combination as including said improvement further comprises the step of: providing variable action intensity of said game imagery at least in part controlled by pressure-sensitive variable depression of a third one of said buttons.

Claim 44 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 43 and further defining the inventive combination as including the improvement further comprises the step of: providing variable action intensity of said game imagery at least in part controlled by pressure-sensitive variable depression of a fourth one of said buttons.

Claim 45 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 44 and further defining the inventive combination as including said improvement further comprises the step of: providing variable action intensity of said game imagery at least in part controlled by pressure-sensitive variable depression of a fifth one of said buttons.

Claim 46 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 42 and further defining the inventive combination as including said housing supports in said left-hand area a depressible pad having four codependant areas, and wherein the improved method comprises the step: depressing a portion of said depressible pad for at least in part controlling said game imagery.

Claim 47 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 46 and further defining the inventive combination as including said image generation machine is a game console.

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Claim 48 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 47 and further defining the inventive combination as including said game imagery includes a simulated game character.

Claim 49 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 48 and further defining the inventive combination as including said variable depression of one of said buttons causes variable jumping height of said game character.

Claim 50 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 48 and further defining the inventive combination as including said variable depression of one of said buttons causes variable firing rate of said game character.

Claim 51 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 48 and further defining the inventive combination as including said simulated game character is a vehicle and said variable depression of one of said buttons causes variable speed of said vehicle.

Claim 52 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 51 and further defining the inventive combination as including the vehicle is a race car.

Claim 53 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including within the novel and inventive claimed combination: A game control with a housing to be grasped and held simultaneously by two hands, the housing including a right-hand area and a left-hand area, a plurality of depressible electricity manipulating devices; at least one of said electricity manipulating devices

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positioned within said right-hand area is an analog sensor actuated by variable depression of a single individual button, said analog sensor comprising: a depressible resilient dome cap, said dome cap positioned over a sheet, said sheet positioned over a board; said game control further including means for reading a signal from said analog sensor; means for outputting information representing said signal.

Claim 54 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 53 and further defining the inventive combination as including the board is a circuit board supporting electrical circuit traces.

Claim 55 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 54 and further defining the inventive combination as including the dome cap has a deformable substantially convexed surface having an apex located to contact said sheet.

Claim 56 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 55 and further defining the inventive combination as including the sheet is a non-conductive sheet supporting conductive material.

Claim 57 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 56 and further defining the inventive combination as including the conductive material is located to contact said circuit traces.

Claim 58 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 56 and further defining the inventive combination as including the circuit traces are interdigitated.

Claim 59 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 58 and

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further defining the inventive combination as including a four way rocker located in said left-hand area of said housing, and further wherein the conductive material is pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material.

Claim 60 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 59 and further defining the inventive combination as including the game control at least in part controls an image generation machine, said means for outputting information communicates from said game control to said image generation machine.

Claim 61 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 60 and further defining the inventive combination as including said image generation machine is a game console at least in part for controlling imagery displayed by a television.

Claim 62 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 61 and further defining the inventive combination as including a second analog sensor is positioned within said right-hand area of said housing, said second analog sensor actuated by variable depression of a second single individual button.

Claim 63 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 53 and further defining the inventive combination as including the dome cap supports conductive material.

Claim 64 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 63 and further defining the inventive combination as including the conductive material has a deformable substantially convexed surface having an apex.

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Claim 65 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 64 and further defining the inventive combination as including the sheet is a non-conductive sheet supporting conductive material.

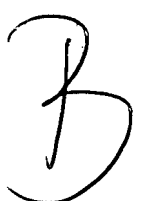
Claim 66 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 65 and further defining the inventive combination as including the conductive material is contacting circuit traces.

Claim 67 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 66 and further defining the inventive combination as including the circuit traces comprise a first circuit trace and a second circuit trace, said conductive material contacting between said first circuit trace and said second circuit trace.

Claim 68 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 67 and further defining the inventive combination as including a four way rocker is located in said left-hand area of said housing.

Claim 69 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 68 and further defining the inventive combination as including an image generation machine, said means for outputting information communicates from said game control to said image generation machine.

Claim 70 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 69 and further defining the inventive combination as including the image generation machine is a game console at least in part for controlling imagery displayed by a television.



Claim 71 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 70 and further defining the inventive combination as including a second analog sensor positioned within said right-hand area of said housing, said second analog sensor actuated by variable depression of a second single individual button.

Claim 72 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 71 and further defining the inventive combination as including a third analog sensor positioned within said right-hand area of said housing, said third analog sensor actuated by variable depression of a third single individual button.

Claim 73 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 72 and further defining the inventive combination as including a fourth analog sensor positioned within said right-hand area of said housing, said fourth analog sensor actuated by variable depression of a fourth single individual button, and further that the sensors include pressure-sensitive variable-conductance material.

Claim 74 is allowable, from at least one viewpoint, for including the properly allowable invention of claim 73 and further defining the inventive combination as including a fifth analog sensor positioned within said right-hand area of said housing, said fifth analog sensor which is located in the right-hand area is actuated by variable depression of a fifth single individual button.

Specifically regarding Inoue et al (US 5,207,426) in view of Asher (US 5,689,285) as combined as prior art in the Office Action mailed 02/13/01: Inoue et al does not disclose pressure-



sensitive analog sensors in order to provide an analog signal so that a user can control imagery action intensity with a single depressible individual button. Asher does not disclose a single depressible individual analog button positioned in a right-hand area of a two hand held controller having a right-hand area and left-hand area. Asher teaches a radially tiltable joystick bi-directionally operable on two axes simultaneously, see Asher column 4, lines 59-61.

Inoue et al and Asher, as well as the other prior art of record alone or in reasonable combination completely fails to teach or suggest: depressing a depressible single individual analog button with varying pressure for varying the action intensity of simulated game character, the analog button (pressure-sensitive variable-conductance sensor) positioned in the right-hand area of a controller having a left-hand area and right-hand area, the controller to be held in two hands simultaneously, basically as set forth in the current amended and new claims.

Therefore, allowance of all of the claims as amended and as newly presented is respectfully requested. Thank you.

Applicant's proposed general "Reasons for Allowance"

The prior art of record could not alone or in proper combination anticipate or make obvious the combination of features as claimed, including: pressure-sensitive variable-conductance depressible individual button(s) located in the right-hand area of a two hand held game controller. Furthermore, the many additional methods and apparatuses recited in the instant claims teach additional combinations of features further defining an allowable invention.

The present claimed invention is patentable over the known prior art. I also believe the present invention is patentable over the inventions of my co-pending applications and issued patents, but wish the issues pertaining to Double Patenting be considered by the PTO Examiners, as I want everything to be

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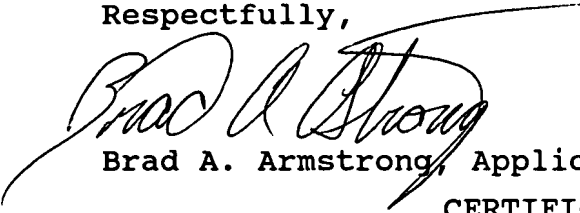
proper when my applications issue as U.S. Patents.

In view of the amendments and the herein remarks favoring allowance, please reexamine my application as now amended and find that all claims are allowable over the prior art. Thank you.

Also, please do not hesitate to telephone me at 775 721 6958 if I may be of any assistance in advancing this application toward issuance.

I, Brad A. Armstrong, believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully,


Brad A. Armstrong, Applicant

Date:

8/2/01

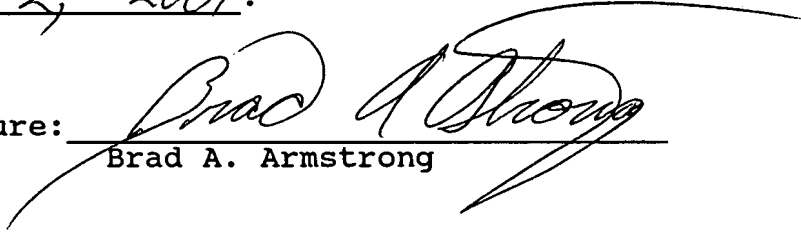
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

I hereby certify that this complete response to the Outstanding Office Action of 02/13/01 regarding U.S. application 09/510,572 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL, article No. EK763984472US with sufficient postage pre-paid in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231, on this

date: Aug 2, 2001.

Signature:


Brad A. Armstrong

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